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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The composition of the Dominican Government has remained essentially the same following the assassination on 30 May of Generalissimo Rafael Leonidas Trujillo, absolute ruler of his country since August 1930. General "Ramfis" Trujillo, the dictator's 32-year-old son who returned from Europe immediately after his father's death, was named head of the joint chiefs of staff of the Dominican armed forces on 1 June. The appointment was unanimously approved by the rubber-stamp Congress. Indications are that the regime is in full control throughout the country.

Ramfis' appointment to the highest armed forces post places him in a position of power comparable to that of his late father. However, he does not have the respect of numerous older officers, who resent his youth, his rashness, and his reputation as an international playboy. Ramfis will almost certainly have to rely on continued force to maintain his position. His clique of personal supporters, who also share his hatred of the United States, include some of the most radical and ruthless elements in the regime.

American Consul Dearborn, after a conversation with President Balaguer on 4 June, commented that the President is "showing some spunk" but is still far from being an independent agent. Although Balaguer seemed to be sincere in expressing his desire to create democratic conditions in the country, he appeared uncertain whether Ramfis would permit him to do so. The consul believes the President may ask for US military support if his program is obstructed. Balaguer [redacted] had threatened to resign rather than accede to a request from "the armed forces" to expel Roman Catholic bishops Reilly and Panal.

Ramfis, other members of the Trujillo family, and close associates probably realize that they stand to lose everything if they permit a significant degree of free opposition. There are few grounds for hope that Balaguer has the courage or ability to assume any role other than his accustomed one as a lackey for those exercising real power.

Government leaders are making a strong effort to convince international opinion that the regime no longer merits the police state label. The presence of American newsmen has served as a brake on police excesses that terrorized the dissidents immediately after the assassination. Some of those arrested have apparently been released.

The presidential decree of 6 June canceling the army commission of John Abbes is clearly designed to dissociate present leaders from this hated symbol of police brutality. It is too soon to know whether this move has any real significance; last year Abbes was replaced as head of the Military Intelligence Service (SIM) for similar reasons, but he continued as de facto head of the organization and was most recently observed in SIM headquarters on 2 June.

Indications of loyalty to the Trujillo family have been observed among low-income groups in the capital as well as in the countryside, where units of a peasant militia were observed on 4 June performing patrol duties with considerable enthusiasm. It is among the usually inarticulate lower classes that the "father image" of the late dictator had its greatest strength. Middle-class elements with at least some formal education, from which future Dominican governments will have to draw their personnel, are

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believed to be largely anti-Trujillo.

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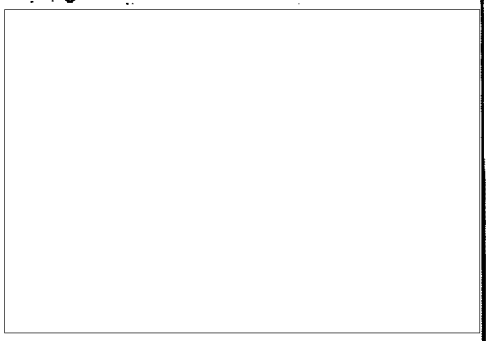

Ramfis Trujillo is known to harbor deep resentments against the United States, and if he and other government leaders fail in their current effort to obtain at least passive US support, he is likely to resume his earlier efforts to reach an accommodation with the Soviet bloc and in any other way available to him to try to undercut US influence.

Communist-Cuban Exploitation

Communists and pro-Castro groups among the thousands of Dominican exiles abroad are already seeking to exploit the dictator's death and may well obtain covert assistance from the Castro regime.

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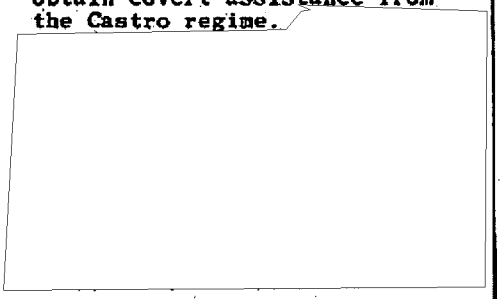

On 2 June, leaders of the Dominican People's Socialist (Communist) party in Cuba issued a statement warning of an impending "imperialist maneuver" designed to prevent the Dominican people from establishing an "independent and democratic" regime. The statement was transmitted the next day in English by the official Czechoslovak news agency.

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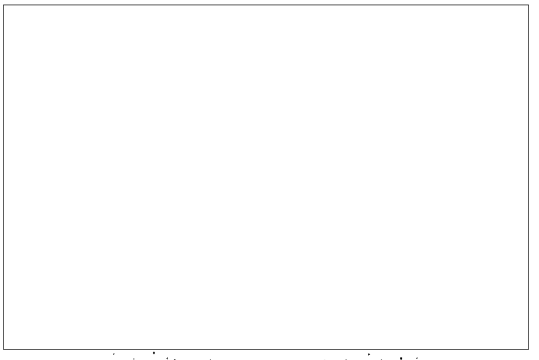

In response to a request for comment on the assassination, Raul Castro said that Cuba should "do no more than listen, look, and keep quiet." He also implied that the US Government had been involved in the assassination because Trujillo had outlived his usefulness to "imperialism," which wished to use Dominican territory as a base against the Cuban revolution. He termed "ridiculous" several reports that he was preparing a Cuban expeditionary force to invade the Dominican Republic. Other Cuban coverage of the Trujillo death has been extensive and similar in content to the younger Castro's remarks.

Proposed Inter-American Action

Venezuelan President Betancourt, in a conversation of more than four hours with Ambassador Adlai Stevenson on 4 June, urged a series of OAS actions "up to and including possible collective military action" to bring down the Dominican regime. The precedent thus established, he said, could later be employed in Cuba. With respect to the Cuban plan, he proposed an OAS foreign ministers' meeting after the inter-American economic conference in Uruguay in July. The OAS conferees would give the Castro regime 90 days to dissociate itself from the Sino-Soviet bloc, observe civil liberties, and hold free elections. If Castro

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did not comply, the foreign ministers would again convene to apply the same sanctions against Castro that had been imposed against the Dominican regime.

The American ambassador in Bogota, after lengthy conversations with Colombian President Lleras Camargo and his foreign minister, reported on 5 June that Colombian leaders had hoped that the extermination of Trujillo would be followed by a popular, democratically oriented uprising, and were disappointed when such a movement failed to develop. Colombian leaders doubt that Ramfis will change the old order and feel that Balaguer is not a promising liberal leader. Bogota apparently prefers to assess the internal Dominican situation further before deciding on any action to be taken.

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CONTROVERSY IN BRAZIL OVER QUADROS POLICIES

President Quadros of Brazil has made repeated gestures toward the Sino-Soviet bloc since his inauguration in January. These gestures and his policy toward Cuba have been criticized by the clergy, a prominent state governor, some newspapers, and some of the military, but the public has not seemed concerned. Brazilian conservatives have insisted that he was expanding diplomatic and commercial relations with the bloc merely to conciliate the country's leftists and Communists and that his basic conservative orientation was indicated by his domestic economic austerity program.

Quadros' policy toward East Germany, however, has caused considerable concern in the Foreign Ministry, because several of his moves seemed to verge on de facto recognition. Quadros on 24 May instructed Foreign Minister Afonso Arinos to invite the East German trade minister to visit Brazil. Joao Dantas, Quadros' crony and emissary, has been visiting Eastern Europe to expand commercial relations there. The Brazilian Foreign Ministry had apparently assured West Germany of a friendly Brazilian policy, but public announcement that Dantas had signed a trade agreement with East Germany has undercut this policy.

Secretary General Leitao da Cunha, an old-line Foreign Ministry official, has resigned, stating that he planned a year's leave of absence from the diplomatic service. Afonso Arinos also threatened to resign but apparently consented to stay on; he told the press that the exact terms of "the document" were unknown but that "it is not a diplomatic agreement, because Dantas has no authority to conclude agreements."

The resignation of Leitao da Cunha has aroused public controversy in Brazil, with editorial reaction predominantly in his support and critical of Dantas and Quadros. A group of military officers--although primarily discontented with Quadros' military appointments and his economic austerity program rather than his foreign policy--is taking advantage of the controversy to present grievances to Quadros at this time.

Discontent among these officers--who appear to be men who held high posts under the previous administration--has been heightened by Quadros' order for the arrest of Marshal Lott, defeated candidate in the 1960 presidential campaign, for making a political statement. They undoubtedly feel that Lott, as titular head of the opposition,

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